

## Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 00409

PASS AGRIC FOR HUGHES/FAS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAGR  
SUBJECT: BERGLAND/WHELAN MEETING: POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF  
BROILER AGENCY AND MTN ITEMS

REFS: A. OTTAWA 378, B. OTTAWA 7054 (1977, AUG.4)

1. APPARENTLY AGRICULTURE MINISTER WHELAN ENVISIONS  
SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FINAL PROPOSAL  
FOR A NATIONAL BROILER MARKETING AGENCY TO ENABLE HIM  
TO PUT FORWARD THE PROPOSAL BY MARCH. OTHER MINISTRIES  
DO NOT SHARE THIS OPTIMISM.

2. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES AWARE, GOC HAS ASSURED USG THAT  
CONSULTATIONS ON THIS PROPOSED AGENCY WILL BE HELD PRIOR  
TO ITS SUBMISSION TO CABINET FOR FINAL APPROVAL. THERE  
ARE INDICATIONS (REF A) THAT WHELAN MAY WISH TO MEET  
GOC COMMITMENT BY INCLUDING THIS SUBJECT AS ONE OF  
SEVERAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR BILATERAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
IN MARCH.

3. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES AWARE MARKETING AGENCY PLANS  
INVOLVE A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL MATTERS WHICH WOULD BE  
DIFFICULT TO EXPLORE AND ANALYZE DURING A MINISTERIAL  
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MEETING. USG HAS NOT YET SEEN A COPY OF PROPOSED PLAN,  
NOR HAVE CONCERNED GOC MINISTRIES. THE PLAN IS CONSIDERED  
CONFIDENTIAL AND HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE ONLY TO POTENTIAL  
SIGNATORIES OF WHICH THERE ARE ABOUT 30. UNDERSTANDABLY  
SOME DETAILS HAVE BECOME KNOWN THROUGH INTERVIEWS WITH  
PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS APPEARING IN FARM PRESS. LAST WEEK A  
B.C. OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE IMPORT QUOTA

WOULD BE 25 MILLION POUNDS. THIS IS ABOUT HALF THE VOLUME OF U.S. CHICKEN EXPORTS TO CANADA IN 1976 AND 1977 AND OF THAT ESTIMATED FOR 1978. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY BELIEVES IMPORT QUOTAS WILL BE EXPRESSED IN TWO BROAD MARKET WEIGHT CATEGORIES OF OVER/UNDER FOUR POUNDS EVISCERATED WEIGHT. AS POINTED OUT IN REF B MARKET DEMANDS ARE MORE PRECISELY DELINEATED. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND DOCUMENTATION BY USDA OF ARGUMENT EMBASSY SET FORTH IN REF B WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON AGENCIES NOT RESIST INCLUSION BROILER AGENCY AS AGENDA ITEM FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING BUT IF BROILER AGENCY IS TO BE DISCUSSED WE ASSURE ADEQUATE ADVANCE TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS AT STAFF LEVEL IN ORDER THAT FULL TRADE IMPLICATIONS CAN BE ANALYZED PRIOR TO MEETING WITH WHELAN.

5. GOC OFFICIALS STATE THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT NOW PREPARED FOR CONSULTATIONS ON BROILER AGENCY, AS CONCERNED MINISTRIES HAVE SEVERAL UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED. HOWEVER, WE WILL KEEP MATTER UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW, ESPECIALLY AS DATE FOR PROSPECTIVE MEETING APPROACHES.

7. REGARDING POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF MTN  
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AGRICULTURAL TRADE ITEMS, EMBASSY UNCERTAIN ABOUT DETAIL IN WHICH WHELAN MAY DESIRE TO DISCUSS ISSUES BUT NOTES WHELAN HAS LIMITED RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA.

8. RE REF A, MINISTER WHELAN NOW DESIRES TO HAVE MEETING IN WASHINGTON. UNDERSTAND CANADIAN EMBASSY CONVEYING SUGGESTED MARCH DATES. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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